

Marriage Records in Paragraph Format

Russia “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

January 2016

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract the genealogical information from a Russian paragraph form marriage record by using key words and phrases.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of the paragraph form Russian marriage records follow a particular format, though they may vary by religion (i.e., Jewish records) or location (for example, Russian Poland or Lithuania).

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [The Russian Alphabet](#)

HOW TO

Before you begin extracting genealogical information from documents written in Russian, it is important to understand some grammatical concepts.

Conjugation

Russian words are conjugated based on their location in a sentence. The two main forms of conjugation in a marriage record will be the instrumental form (*he is getting married*), and the genitive, or possessive form (*son of Ivan*). Note that with non-Russian names, such as Polish, both the groom's and bride's names could contain variations based on local naming customs.

The following endings of names are typical:

Instrumental case

Given Names	Example	Surnames	Example
masculine: add an 'омъ' or 'емъ'	Александр= Александромъ	masculine: add an 'омъ' or 'емъ'	Иванов = Ивановомъ
feminine: change the last letter for an 'ой' or 'ь' or 'ью'	Галина = Галиной	feminine: change the last letter for an 'ой' or 'ь' or 'ью'	Иванова = Ивановой

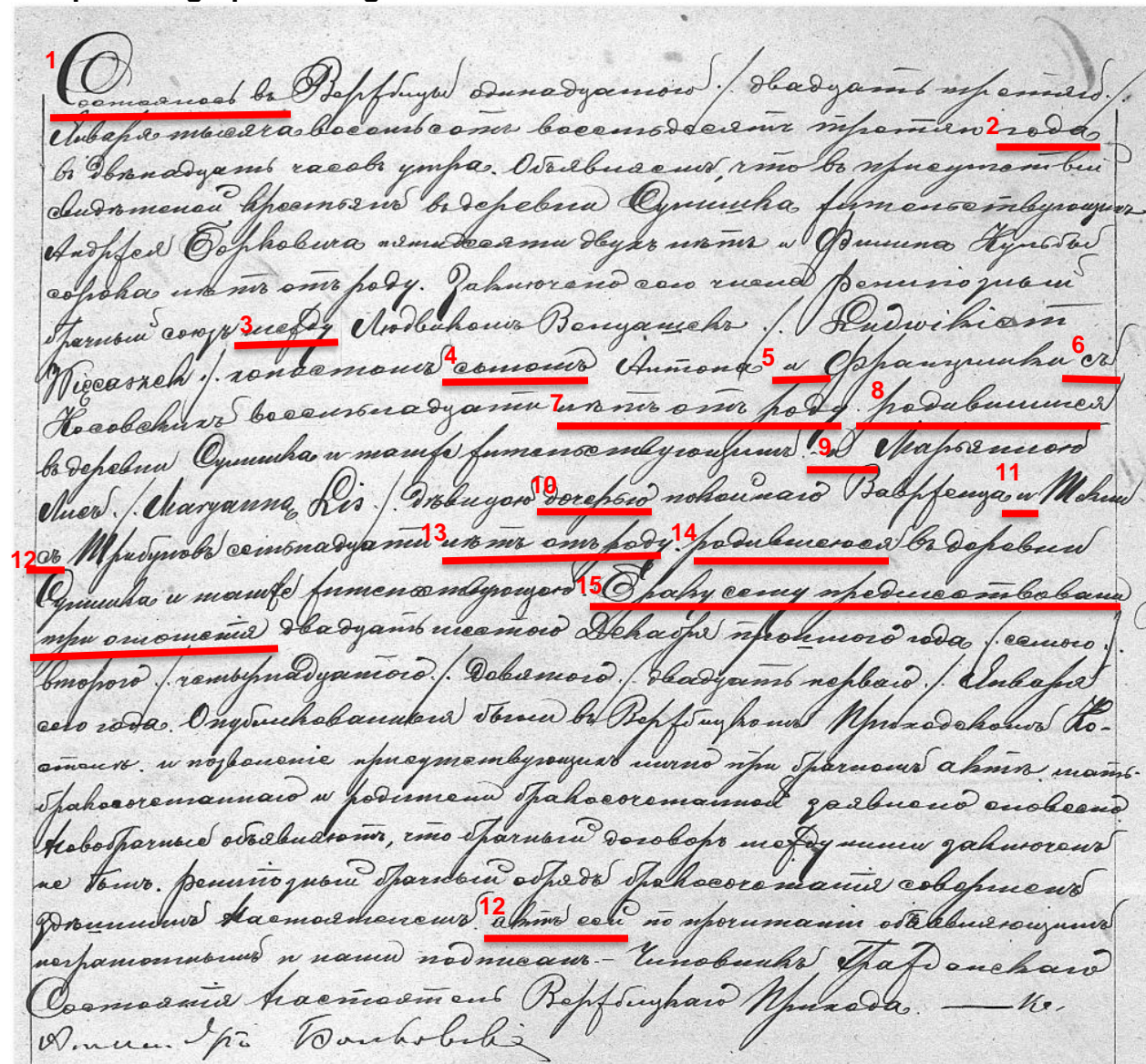
Genitive case

Given Names	Example	Surnames	Example
masculine: add an 'а'	Антон = Антона	masculine: add an 'а'	Петров = Петрова
feminine: change the last letter to an 'ы'	Татьяна = Татьяны	feminine: change the last letter to an 'ы'	Сидерова = Сидеровы

Patronymics and Surnames

For ethnic Russians, patronymics play an important cultural role. A person's second name is traditionally a form of his or her father's name. Surnames traditionally have had a masculine and feminine form, and you may encounter these in marriage documents.

Sample Paragraph Marriage Record



Source: <https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-17027-50828-84>

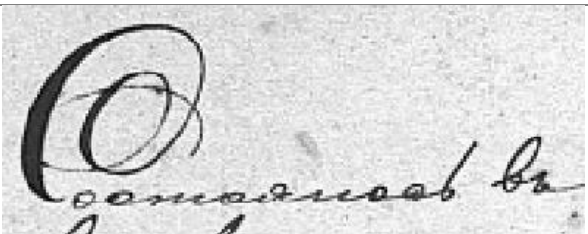
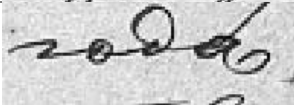
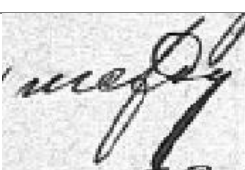
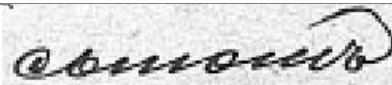

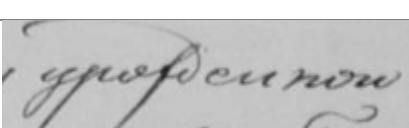
Paragraph Marriage Record Outline in English

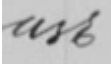
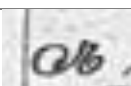
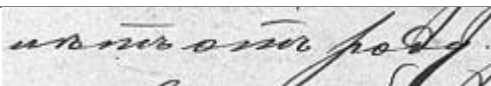
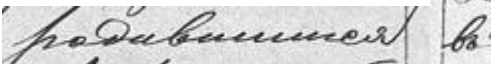

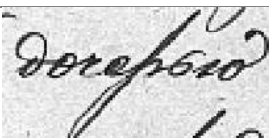

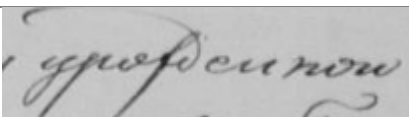
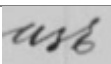
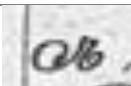
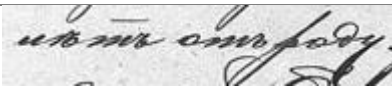
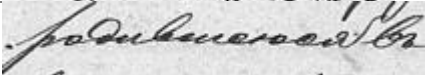

It happened in¹ (village, town, city etc.), (full date written out) year², at (time). Announcing that in the presence of witnesses in the village (place name) residents (witnesses names and ages).

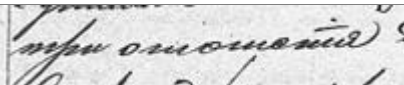
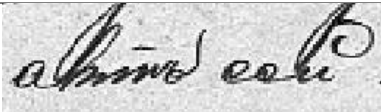
Sealed this day a religious marriage union between³ (name of groom, bachelor/widower) son of⁴ (first name of father and⁵ mother) from⁶ (mother's maiden name) (age of groom) years from birth⁷. Born⁸ in the village or town (place name) and also a resident. And⁹ (name of the bride, spinster/widow) daughter of¹⁰ (first name of father and¹¹ mother) from¹² (mother's maiden name) (age of bride) years from birth¹³. Born¹⁴ in the village or town (place name) and also a resident. This marriage was preceded by three banns¹⁵ that were posted (full dates of those three days). Permission was given orally by the bride's mother and the groom's parents who were present in person for the writing of the marriage record. The newlyweds announced, that a marital agreement was not made between them. The religious marriage ceremony of marriage was performed (name of the priest). This act¹⁶ was read and signed....

Key Words

The following key words will indicate the most essential genealogical information. Depending on the context, the information may come before or after the key word. Note that the Russian words and phrases are written in standardized Russian. In some cases, the examples provided may differ in spelling, diacritics, or conjugation of the word. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines.

English	Russian	Information given	Example
1. It happened in...	состоялась в	<u>followed by</u> the word "village" or "town" and then the place name	
2....year	...года	<u>before this</u> word will be the date written out	
3. between ...	между...+	<u>followed by</u> the name of the groom and his marriage status.	
4. son of...	сыномъ...	<u>followed by</u> the dad's first name	
5. and...	и...	<u>followed by</u> the mom's first name	
born as...	урожденной ...	<u>followed by</u> the maiden name of the wife	

born as...	изъ	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
6. born as...	съ	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
7....years old	...лѣтъ от роду	before this will be his age	
8. born in...	родившихся в...	followed by the word for town/village and then the place the groom was born	
9. and...	и...	followed by the brides name	
10. daughter of...	дочерью...	followed by the bride's father's first name	
11. and...	и...	followed by the bride's mother's first name	
born as...	урожденной ...	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
born as...	изъ	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
12. born as...	съ	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
13....years old	...лѣтъ от роду	before this will be his age	
14. born in...	родившихся в...	followed by the place the groom was born	
15. This marriage	браку сему предшестбоб	followed by the 3 different	

was preceded by 3 banns...	ала три огношения...	dates	
16. This act...	Акт сей...	<u>followed by</u> the formulaic end of the document; it indicates the end of all genealogical information.	

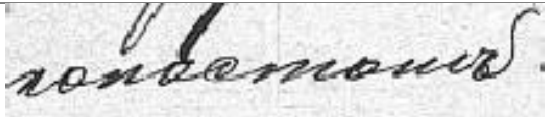
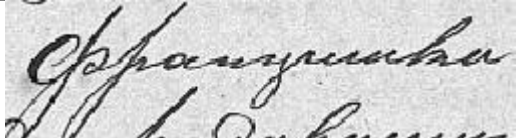

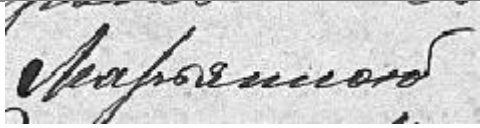
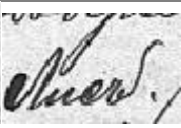
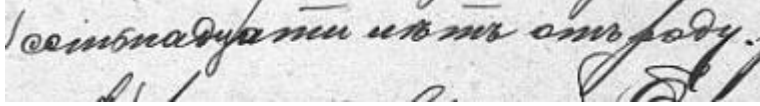
Other Helpful Vocabulary Words

Before the name of a specific place is mentioned, you will see a word describing the type of location (i.e. “village” or “city”). After the groom’s name it will state whether he is a bachelor or a widower. Following the bride’s name they will state whether she was a spinster or a widow. When recording the parents of the bride and groom, the word “deceased” is usually added before the names if they are deceased.

village	деревня
village with a church	село (sometimes appearing as селѣ)
city	город
settlement	посад
yesterday	вчера́шнего дня
today	сего́дняшнего дня
peasant	крестьянин
petty bourgeois	Мещанинѣ
farmer	земледелец
deceased	покойный
resident	жительство́ющий
bachelor	холостяк
spinster	девица
widow	вдова
widower	вдовец
of the same year	сего́ года
of the same year	текуща́го года
of the same month	сего́ месяца

PRACTICE

The last page of this guide contains an image of a marriage record. You can also view the image on FamilySearch by clicking [here](#). For any unfamiliar words, use the FamilySearch word list, found at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russian_Genealogical_Word_List.

Is the groom a bachelor or a widower?	You will find this information directly after the groom's name. If he is a widower it will say вдовец, if he is a bachelor, it will say холостокъ (old spelling).	 <p>Bachelor</p>
What is the groom's mother's name? (first and maiden)	You will find this after the father's first name. Following the word и you will find her first name and following съ you will find her maiden name.	  <p>Францишка Носовскихъ</p> <p>Fransiska Nosovskikh (in Polish: Franciszka Nosowska)</p>
What is the bride's name?	This information is following all of the groom's information and the word и.	  <p>Марьяннаъ Лисъ</p> <p>Marianna Lis</p>
How old is she?	This information will be found after her parents name and before the phrase: ...летъ от роду	 <p>семнадцати летъ отъ роду</p> <p>Seventeen years old</p>

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.

Составленъ въ Берфбургъ одиннадцатого / двадцатъ ир атиид /
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